



## Press Release

### Guatemalan Drug Czar, Edgar Camargo Learns about Alexandria's Substance Abuse Prevention Efforts during Visit

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Contact: Allen Lomax, SAPCA Chair  
703-578-3054 [aclomax@aol.com](mailto:aclomax@aol.com)  
Mary-Jane Atwater  
703-683-4213 [matwater@aol.com](mailto:matwater@aol.com)

Alexandria, Virginia – Guatemala's Drug Czar, Edgar Camargo, visited the Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria (SAPCA) to learn about SAPCA's efforts to decrease youth substance use in Alexandria. Mr. Camargo is the Executive Secretary of the Commission Against Addiction and Drug Trafficking (SECCATID). Guatemala's national drug control strategy includes the use of community coalitions to reduce demand for alcohol and illicit drugs.

Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) arranged for the May 4 visit. CADCA supports community coalitions in their effort to create and maintain safe, healthy and drug-free communities. Eric Siervo, manager of CADCA, and Carlos Pratdesaba, SECCATID's Director of the National Observatory on Drugs, attended the presentation with Mr. Camargo. Also in attendance were Allen Lomax, SAPCA Chair, Mary-Jane Atwater and Monique Lewis, SAPCA board members, and Noraine Buttar, SAPCA Coordinator.

Tricia Bassing, SAPCA Board Member, conducted the presentation. She explained how SAPCA utilizes all sectors of the community to influence change. Ms. Bassing highlighted SAPCA's activities and newly formed strategic plan.

"I am impressed with your coalition, and what I learned today will be helpful to me when I go back to Guatemala," said Mr. Camargo. Mr. Siervo echoed this sentiment and added, "Your coalition is doing great work and was highly recommended by CADCA."

SAPCA is an alliance of more than 80 members representing parents, youth, schools, City health and recreation agencies, nonprofits, media, businesses, faith communities, policymakers and law enforcement whose mission is to engage the entire community in reducing youth substance use and abuse in the City of Alexandria. SAPCA was created in 2007 as part of the Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria (<http://www.alexhealth.org/partnership>). Alexandria Mayor William D. Euille is SAPCA's honorary chair. Information about SAPCA, including membership, is available at <http://www.alexhealth.org/partnership/sapca.html>.

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